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State Dept. review completed

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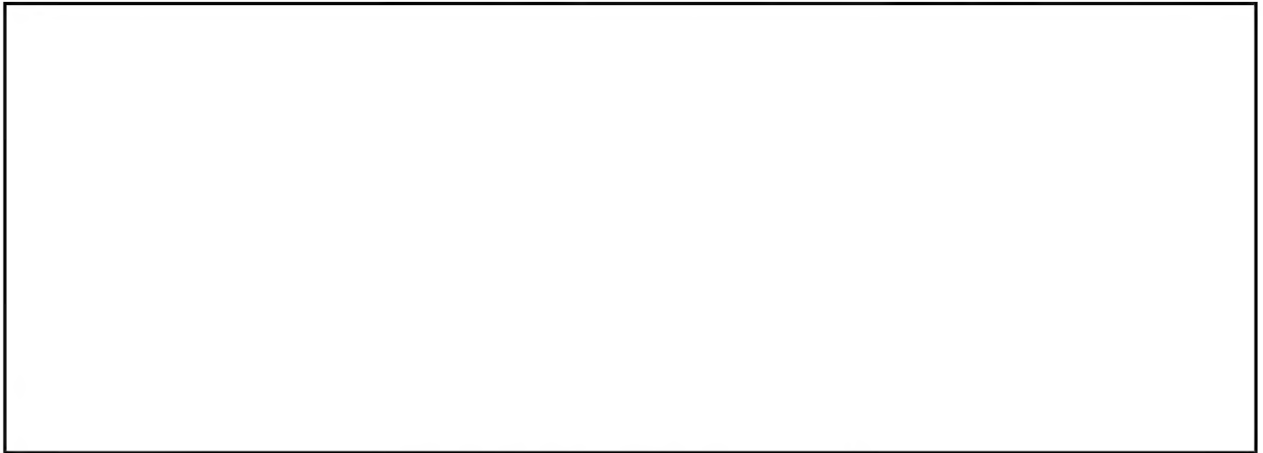
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SUMMARY

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EASTERN EUROPE

5. Comment on Black Sea canal work suspension:

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[REDACTED] The tacit admission by a Rumanian official on 10 August that work on the Danube-Black Sea canal has been suspended supports earlier reports that construction was stopped on 20 July. The apparent cessation of work on the project is in sharp contrast to the Rumanian propaganda line that the canal was to be the greatest of the country's socialist construction projects.

The Rumanian official implied that labor, equipment, and investment resources will be shifted from the canal to consumer goods production. This is in line with the new "liberal" policy in the Orbit. The work stoppage also parallels the recent abandonment of at least two such major construction projects in the Soviet Union.

WESTERN EUROPE

6. West Germans believe Allies now hold initiative on unity issue:

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[REDACTED] The recent exchange of notes between the Western powers and the Soviet Union on German unification, together with Chancellor Adenauer's proposal that the EDC be expanded into a European-wide security system, has created an impression in West Germany favorable to the Allies and to the

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Adenauer government, according to a high Bonn Foreign Ministry official. He states that both Adenauer and French foreign minister Bidault want to continue the note exchange in order to disclose Soviet insincerity on the German unity issue.

Comment: There is general agreement among Western diplomats that the note exchange and the 7-8 August foreign ministers' conference at Baden-Baden have improved the prospects for Adenauer's re-election.

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